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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,818	12/20/2001	David Turner	05127.00035	8443

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EXAMINER

PATEL, TAJASH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/033,818

Applicant(s)

TURNER ET AL.

Examiner

Tejash D Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 4, on line 1, "claim 4" should be changed to -- claim 3-- so that the claim is in proper dependent form. Correction is Required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (US 3,257,666) in view of Thomas (US 5,694,651). Hoffman discloses an apparel attachment member (40,44) defining first and second sides, with the first side being fastened to a protective equipment/shoulder pad (12), while the second side includes a plurality of hooks, col. 3, lines 7-20 and as shown in figure 3 and 4. Further, a garment/apparel includes fasteners having a plurality of loops which are permanently attached thereto, col. 3, lines 20-22 that releasably engages with the second side of the attachment member, col. 3, lines 25-27. However, Hoffman does not show the

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first side of the attachment member having an adhesive coating and a plurality of loops being formed in the apparel.

Thomas discloses a garment being formed from polyester fishnet material that includes patches attached thereto, col. 2, lines 9-54.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the garment of Hoffman from the material as taught by Thomas, in order to provide an alternative means of attaching the shoulder pad to the garment without the need of additional fasteners. Further, it is obvious that the garment of Thomas forms naturally occurring loops having a brushed surface as conventionally known in the textile art. Furthermore, it is obvious that the attachment member of Hoffman made of the material of Thomas will substantially conform to the body when the device is fastened.

With regard to the attachment member having a first side with an adhesive coating. It is well known in the art that attachment members conventionally includes one side with an adhesive surface while the other side includes hook and loop material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan in the art to recognize that the first side of the attachment member of Hoffman was adhered to the protective equipment.

With regard to claims 5, the specification offers no unexpected results arising from the use of acrylic adhesive. Therefore, it is well within the ordinary skill in the art that any suitable adhesive that was available could have been used when the device was constructed.

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With regard to claims 3 and 9, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that the garment (50) of Hoffman can be constructed in any desired upper body torso garment as required for a particular application.

Further, it is obvious that hook/ loop material can be positioned on the second side of the attachment member which releasably engages hook/ loop material formed on the garment, vice-versa, depending on the particular application thereof.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Tejash Patel at telephone number (703) 306-9184.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert, can be reached on (703) 305-1025.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

Patel/tp

November 15, 2002



Tejash Patel
Examiner
AU 3765